**Discussion Director**

**Name: Boram Lee Meeting # 4 Pages: 263-323**

**Literature Circle's Name: It’s Kind of a Book Club**

**Order for Leading Your Group Discussion**

 Pose each one of your questions to your group for discussion

 Ask for each member of your group to state their comment/questions about this section of the novel. Lead your group in response to what each person says. Fill in the answers on your Role Sheet.

 Call on the Passage Master.

 Call on the Theme Detailer.

 Fill out the Group Record sheet with input from your group members

 Assign roles for the next reading.

 Turn in the Daily Record Sheet and obtain new Role Sheets for the next meeting. It is your responsibility to ensure that each group member gets the new Role Sheet.

**Discussion Questions or Topics for Our Lit Circle:**

1. Craig finally goes to the hospital and is now experiencing the life in the clinic. However, the description of the life in the hospital sounds different from what we expect. They offer many different kinds of food and let patients to choose among them. Also, there are clubs and activities that patients can enjoy. What was your first impression of the life of the hospital? How this hospital is different from other hospital you thought about?

Answer:

This hospital is different from what I think because I thought the hospital would be more serious rather than enjoying. My first impression of the life of the hospital is that it sounds like a school and patients look like young kids who wait for their lunchtime. This shows that the hospital does not have to be serious because patients are depressed and also displays the optimistic part of the patients.

2. In page 271, the Nurse asks how Craig feels today and when Craig replies that he could not sleep last night because of his friend, she says, “Maybe they are not your friends.” What do you think her mean by “your friends?” Do you think she is correct and why?

Answer:

I do not think she is correct because she says they are not his friends because they make Craig to not to sleep. She believes friends are responsible for everything including the daily life. It is true that friends have to look up their friends and need to take care about them, but it does not mean they are responsible for their friends’ sleep. It is Craig’s responsibility to go to bed and if he is responsible enough, he should have hung up the phone and went to bed.

3. As story develops in the hospital, Craig gets to know other patients and communicates openly. Once, Craig and his friend talk about how they got to come to the hospital. Again, this is a mental hospital and is full of people who pessimistically think about the world and try to kill themselves because they have no motive to live. Yet, in this conversation, Craig’s friend does not seem to feel shameful about her act and does not care whether other finds out or not. She even talks about it as it is nothing or as if it is normal action. What do you think about their action? Do you believe they are not shameful about their done? How are they different from Craig?

Answer:

Craig is self-conscious and always worries how other would think about him. In fact, he does not want his friends to know where he is and what is wrong with him. Yet, his friend at the hospital has different attitude about her illness. When they talk about their symptoms, she does not care whether he finds out or not; she, actually, encourages him to know. She believes she is normal because everyone goes through these hardships. I am actually impressed but I like that she does not lose her confidence and seeks for her solutions.

4. On Sunday night, after socializing with patients and experiencing the first week in the hospital Craig tells his psychologist that he goes to sleep well even though Craig used to have nightmare and could not go to sleep easily. Do you think his depression is already cured? Which factors may affect him to go to sleep well?

Answer:

I do not think his depression is already cured; however, he is getting better. I think he now can go to bed easily because he adjusts well in the hospital and does not get pressure by any other people unlike he does in the school. He does not have to worry about his grades or friends; people in the clinic are nice and understand him. He feels free and calm, which lead him to sleep well.

5. We are now half way done and we know few major themes and summary about the book. So far, we know that Craig got into the top high school, met his friends including Aaron and Nia, and now is experiencing the depression. He checks into the mental hospital and gets along with other patients well. However, it is still about a young boy, who faces the dilemma. In what way “it’s kind of a funny story?” Why do you think the author picks this phrase for the title of the book?

Answer:

I think the author uses this phrase to emphasize that it is not really a funny story but is “funny” in a way that a young boy faces the depression and his experiences are interesting and sarcastic.